

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 091404Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO USICA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4011

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 2281

USICA FOR ECA

STATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, OEXC, SW, ELAB
SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY VISITORS: LARS HELLMAN AND BERTIL SANDBERG

1. LARS HELLMAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMERCIAL OFFICIALS' UNION AND BERTIL SANDBERG, NEGOTIATING SECRETARY OF THE FOREMEN'S UNION HAVE APPROACHED THE EMBASSY ABOUT FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR A TRIP THEY PLAN ON MAKING TO THE U.S. FROM AUGUST 12 TO SEPTEMBER 2. HELLMAN AND SANDBERG EACH OCCUPY THE NUMBER TWO POSITION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE UNIONS AND ARE EXPECTED TO MOVE UP TO THE PRESIDENCIES WHEN THE CURRENT INCUMBENTS RETIRE. THEIR UNIONS, WITH 75,000 AND 95,000 MEMBERS RESPECTIVELY, ARE TWO OF THE MOST IMPORTANT UNIONS IN THE WHITE COLLAR CONFEDERATION (TCO). THE EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT USICA/ECA SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF DOL/ILAB TO HELP THESE TWO IMPORTANT YOUNG SWEDISH TRADE UNIONISTS.

2. LARS HELLMAN WAS BORN IN STOCKHOLM IN 1941. HE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY BUT DID NOT RECEIVE A DEGREE. HE BEGAN HIS TRADE UNION CAREER AS AN ACTIVIST IN THE UNION AT AN INSURANCE COMPANY WHERE HE WAS EMPLOYED. HE IS ACTIVE IN A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS AND CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE

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CHAIRMAN OF THE TRAVEL SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FEDERATION. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND HAS VISITED THE U.S. TWICE PREVIOUSLY, LAST YEAR AS TOURIST ON THE WEST COAST FOR A WEEK AND WHEN HE WAS FIFTEEN YEARS OLD AS A KITCHEN BOY ON A SWEDISH SHIP (A SUMMER VACATION JOB).

3. BERTIL SANDBERG WAS BORN IN 1933 IN THE IRON MINING

TOWN OF HELLEFORS. HE COMES OUT OF THE FOREST SECTOR AND SERVED AS THE SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY FOR FOREST ENGINEERS WHICH IS A PART OF THE FOREMEN'S UNION. HIS HOBBIES ARE HUNTING AND FISHING. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATES BUT HAS NEVER TRAVELED OUTSIDE OF EUROPE. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

4. IN TYPICAL SWEDISH FASHION HELLMAN AND SANDBERG HAVE ALREADY PREPARED QUITE A DETAILED ITINERARY OF WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO IN THE U.S. PARTLY BASED ON THE PROGRAMS PREPARED BY ILAB FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE BOSSES WHO TRAVELED TO THE U.S. IN 1974. DESPITE THE DETAIL OF THEIR PROGRAMS THEY ARE FLEXIBLE AND WILL ACCEPT ANY CHANGES THOUGHT NECESSARY IN THEIR PROGRAMS. IT WAS ALSO EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT MANY APPOINTMENTS WILL NOT BE FINALIZED UNTIL THEY MEET WITH AN ILAB PROGRAMING OFFICER IN WASHINGTON. BOTH UNIONS HAVE A WIDE JURISDICTION ORGANIZING FOREMEN AND SUPERVISORS ACROSS A BROAD SPECTRUM OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

5. SANDBERG AND HELLMAN'S PROPOSED PROGRAM FOLLOWS:
AUGUST 12: ARRIVE WASHINGTON
AUGUST 13: SIGHTSEEING, STRONG HISTORICAL EMPHASIS.
AUGUST 14: LABOR DEPARTMENT (AS WELL AS MEETING THEIR PROGRAM OFFICER THEY SHOULD MEET WITH ASSISTANT EUROPEAN ADVISOR BRUMFIELD WHOM THEY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING IN STOCKHOLM) NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE LEGAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ASPECTS OF ORGANIZING IN THE U.S. AND THE IMPACT OF LABOR LAW REFORM.

AUGUST 15: AFL-CIO, HELLMAN WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY AND AIRLINE CLERKS. SANDBERG WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH A BUILDING TRADES UNION- PERHAPS THE CARPENTERS, AND WITH THE MACHINIST UNION.

AUGUST 16: VISIT THE RETAIL CLERKS (BOTH ARE ACQUAINTED WITH JERRY O'KEEFE).

VISIT WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPLE EMPLOYEES.

AUGUST 17: VISIT WITH THE TEAMSTERS

AFTERNOON TRAVEL FROM WASHINGTON TO CHICAGO

AUGUST 18: MEET WITH THE MEATCUTTERS. SANDBERG WOULD LIKE TO VISIT A SLAUGHTER HOUSE AND MEAT PACKING COMPANY, SANDBERG WOULD ALSO LIKE TO VISIT A STEEL MILL AND MEET WITH UNITED STEEL WORKERS LOCAL OR WITH USW DISTRICT 10 OFFICIALS. HELLMAN WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE HEADQUARTERS OF A LARGE WHOLESALE HOUSE WHILE IN CHICAGO.

AUGUST 19: CHICAGO-DETROIT

AUGUST 20: SIGHTSEEING IN DETROIT. AGAIN THEY WOULD LIKE A HISTORICAL FOCUS. DEARBORN VILLAGE WAS DESCRIBED TO THEM AND THEY SEEMED QUITE ENTHUSIASTIC.

AUGUST 21: VISIT THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS. HELLMAN IS INTERESTED

IN VISITING A LARGE FREIGH FORWARDING AND DISPATCH OPERATION.
SANDBERG WANT STO VISIT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY
INTERNATIONAL DIVISION TO DISCUSS "THE FUTURE OF THE CAR INDUSTRY".
AUGUST 22: VISIT WITH A FIRM PROVIDING PLANT SECURITY (THEY
BOTH HAVE LARGE NUMBERS OF PLANT GUARDS IN THEIR UNIONS)
AUGUST 23: TRAVEL TO UAW CENTER AT BLACK LAKE (BY RENTED CAR).
AUGUST 24: BLACK LAKE
AUGUST 25: BLACK LAKE TO MACKINAW

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USICA FOR ECA

STATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

AUGUST 26: SIGHTSEEING MACKINAW (MACKINAC ISLAND)
AUGUST 27: RETURN TO DETROIT BY RENTED CAR AND FLY TO BUFFALO.
AUGUST 28: VISIT NIAGRA FALLS
AUGUST 29: FLY BUFFALO TO NEW YORK
AUGUST 30: HELLMAN WOULD LIKE TO SPEND THE WHOLE DAY WITH THE
TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION, (HIS UNION INCLUDES ALL OF THE SAS CABIN
PERSONNEL PLUS CABIN PERSONNEL FOR THE DOMESTIC AND CHARTER
CARRIERS IN SWEDEN). SANDBERG WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WITH A LAARGE
ELECTRICAL COMPANY (WESTINGHOUSE, G.E.).
AUGUST 31: VISIT WITH THE LONGSHOREMEN UNIONS AND A LOOK AT THE
HARBOR OPERATIONS. THEY BOTH WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WITH THE RETAIL,
WHOLESALE, AND DEPARTMENT STORE UNION IN NEW YORK.
SEP. 1: SIGHTSEEING
SEP. 2: NEW YORK - STOCKHOLM

6. BOTH HELLMAN AND SANDBERG WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR
WIVES. IF PRACTICAL THEY WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE
SOME SEPARATE PROGRAMING FOR THEIR WIVES ON THE DAYS THEY WILL
BE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH UNION BUSINESS (AUGUST 15-18, 22 AND 31).

SANDBERG'S WIFE WHO USES HER MAIDEN NAME OF ULLA CATO IS A NURSE AND MIDWIFE IN SWEDEN. SHE WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN COMPANY MEDICAL PLANS AND MATERNAL CARE. ANNE-MARIE HELLMAN IS A UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY TO THE SWEDISH RED CROSS AND WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO VISIT WITH THE U.S. RED CROSS WHILE IN WASHINGTON. THE WIVES HAVE MANY CROSS-INTERESTS AND WOULD PREFER TO REMAIN TOGETHER. SANDBERG AND HELLMAN WOULD ALSO WELCOME HOME HOSPITALITY DURING THEIR VISIT.

7. THE EMBASSY IS WELL AWARE OF HOW DETAILED AND COMPLICATED THIS REQUEST IS. IT HAS BEEN STRESSED TO HELLMAN AND SANDBERG THAT ILAB MAY RECOMMEND MANY CHANGES AND THAT THEY OUGHT TO REMAIN FLEXIBLE IN THEIR THINKING. THEIR HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR THEIR TRIP HAVE BEEN FUELED BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE UNIONS WHO THANKS TO THE GOOD WORK BY STATE AND ILAB APPARENTLY FOUND THEIR EARLIER TRIP A TRULY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE. THIS EXCEPTIONAL SUCCESS IS WHAT INSPIRED THEIR UNION PRESIDENTS TO USE UNION FUNDS TO SEND THEIR HEIRS APPARENT ON A SIMILAR VISIT.

8. SANDBERG AND HELLMAN ARE IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING PLANE RESERVATIONS ITINERARY WILL BE TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL. THEY WOULD LIKE ILAB TO HANDLE HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR THEIR VISIT. THEY SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT THEIR UNIONS ARE PREPARED TO PAY FOR FIRST CLASS ACCOMODATIONS.

9. PLEASE INFORM SWEDISH LABOR ATTACHE BJORN PETTERSSON ABOUT THIS VISIT.
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